



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 09/17/2024

ITEM NO: 10

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DATE: September 12, 2024  
TO: Mayor and Town Council  
FROM: Katy Nomura, Interim Town Manager  
SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Approving the Town of Los Gatos Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Annex to the County of Santa Clara Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution (Attachment 1) approving the Town of Los Gatos Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Annex to the County of Santa Clara Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2000, the United States Congress adopted the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as an amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) to authorize a program for pre-disaster mitigation efforts. Congress realized that disasters posed a great danger to human life and property. Congress determined a larger emphasis needed to be placed on identifying these natural and human-caused hazards and proactively assessing the risks posed to communities. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 provides guidance to local jurisdictions to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). A LHMP is not required by law, but for a jurisdiction to be eligible for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funds or to receive Federal disaster relief through the Stafford Act, a jurisdiction must maintain an LHMP.

The Town of Los Gatos Town Manager's Office has prepared its Annex to the County of Santa Clara Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) to ensure compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the requirements of the latest Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide. This LHMP Annex has been coordinated with the County of Santa Clara's MJHMP. The MJHMP has been approved by

**PREPARED BY:** Paul Horvat  
Emergency Services Coordinator

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Reviewed by: Interim Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

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SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Town of Los Gatos Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Annex to the County of Santa Clara Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)

DATE: January 4, 2024

FEMA and California Office of Emergency Services on behalf of the County and participating cities.

DISCUSSION:

Hazard mitigation planning is the basis for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster risk and losses through the ongoing evaluation and analysis of an ever-changing environment. This LHMP Annex identifies the Town's known natural and human-caused disaster risks. It provides a plan for departments, stakeholders, and the community to decrease risk and loss through various mitigation efforts. This LHMP Annex creates the framework for risk-based decision making to reduce loss of life and injuries as well as lessen damage to property and the economy from future disasters.

As the costs of disaster management and recovery continue to rise, jurisdictions must find ways to reduce hazard risks to their communities. Hazard mitigation efforts are essential both before and after a disaster. Often following a disaster, repairs and reconstruction are completed to simply restore damaged property to pre-disaster conditions. These efforts may get the community back to normal for a time, but the replication of pre-disaster conditions may result in a repetitive cycle of damage and reconstruction. Hazard mitigation breaks this cycle using a long-term view of rebuilding and recovering after a disaster, by looking at what happened and how the impacts can be lessened if a disaster reoccurs. The implementation of these mitigation actions builds stronger, safer, and smarter communities that are better able to reduce future loss of life and property.

The Town's comprehensive approach to mitigation employs the following varied techniques:

- Prevention: the Town utilizes administrative and regulatory actions, such as planning and zoning requirements, that influence the way land and buildings are developed to reduce hazard losses.
- Natural Resource Protection: actions minimize hazard loss and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems via vegetation management and post-wildfire watershed management.
- Property Protection: modification of structures, such as seismic retrofit or bolt and brace projects, decrease the physical damage to property.
- Public Education and Awareness: informing the public, residents and businesses about hazards and ways to reduce their own loss and to lower risk in the community.

This LHMP Annex is designed to be used as a hazard identification and analysis reference document to help the Town reduce or eliminate long-term risk from identified hazards or disasters. It should be considered during pre- and post-disaster planning efforts. This LHMP

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Annex will be a companion document to the Town of Los Gatos General Plan – Hazards and Safety Element.

This LHMP Annex shall be reviewed internally on an annual basis and will follow the County's update cycle which occurs every five years in accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Future five-year updates will return to the Town Council for approval while periodic revisions will be managed by the Town Manager's Office operationally to ensure the document remains relevant and useful.

CONCLUSION:

This LHMP Annex is a vital component of the Town's emergency management goals. Staff recommends adoption of the attached resolution (Attachment 1).

COORDINATION:

This LHMP Annex has been coordinated with the Parks and Public Works Department, Town Manager's Office, Town Attorney's Office, County of Santa Clara Department of Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This LHMP Annex was prepared with Town staff resources and did not result in any additional costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Town of Los Gatos Local Hazard Mitigation Annex to the County of Santa Clara Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan